



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

PEDIATRICS

What is Pediatrics?

Pediatricians practice the specialty of medical science concerned with the physical, emotional, and social health of children from birth to young adulthood. Pediatricians understand the many factors that affect the growth and development of children. They understand that children are not simply small adults. Children change rapidly, and they must be approached with an appreciation of their stage of physical and mental development.

Because the welfare of children and adolescents is heavily dependent upon the home and family, the pediatrician supports efforts to create a nurturing environment. Such support includes education about healthful living and guidance for both patients and parents. Pediatricians participate in the community to prevent or solve problems in child and adolescent health care, and they serve as advocates for children and adolescents.

Some pediatricians choose to focus their practice in one area of pediatrics. These physicians pursue additional training in a sub-specialty. For example, pediatric cardiologists are pediatricians who sub-specialize in diseases of the heart. Other areas of specialization are:

- Medicine/Pediatrics (Med/Peds) Program
- Pediatrics/Neurology Program
- Pediatrics/Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program
- Pediatrics/Emergency Medicine Program
- Pediatrics/Medical Genetics Program
- Pediatrics/Psychiatry/Child and Adolescent Psychiatry program

What Education is Required?

A bachelor's degree is required before admission to medical school is granted. A student's bachelor's degree can be in any subject, but a minimum number of science credits are required. The application process begins a year prior to matriculation into medical school. In addition, the Medical College Aptitude Test (MCAT) is a required element of the application process.

Once admitted, students attend medical school for four years followed by a minimum three-year residency which can often be longer depending on the chosen specialty.

Where Can I Get More Information?

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